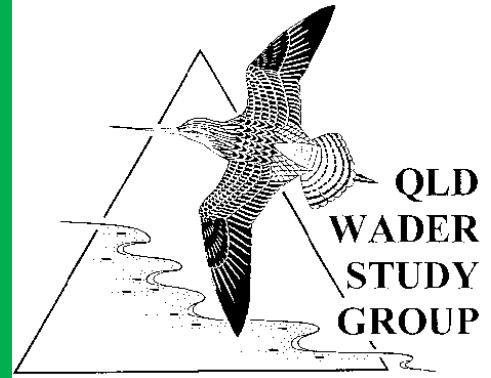


# QUEENSLAND WADER



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Newsletter of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), a special interest group of  
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## Chairperson Report to QWSG Annual General Meeting

17th December 2017 by David Edwards

I am pleased to present this report, my first as Chairperson of the Queensland Wader Study Group (QWSG), on behalf of the 2017 QWSG Management Committee. As with so many past reports I start by commenting as to how busy this year has been. The report will highlight some of the achievements and activities of the QWSG over the last 12 months as we continue to promote the protection of wader habitats under threat, and promote the scientific study and conservation of all waders.

This year was the 25th year of the QWSG and was marked by a celebration for and of longstanding and past participants of the QWSG. The night's get-together was held at St. Mary's Church Hall, Kangaroo Point. We were met by Ellie, the Eastern Curlew, and then escorted up to a view over the Brisbane River for drinks and nibbles. This was most pleasant. Then down to the church hall for the main course and dessert, plus tea or coffee and a piece of birthday cake.

During the meal a few people took the opportunity to recall QWSG happenings etc. Peter Driscoll had asked us all to supply a fact about ourselves that others might not know and then we had to match fact to face. It was great fun and threw up some amazing details. Who knew we had a girl from a James Bond movie was in our midst?

We have to thank Peter Driscoll, Sheryl Keates, Gary Harch and Ivell Whyte for all their help in organising the event and setting up the hall on the night. A special thank you to Gary for making the venue available to us. The biggest thanks goes to the volunteers of the Church who provided us with a magnificent meal.

Sheryl Keates has done another excellent year as our treasurer and kept our finances and membership on track and under control. This job was made considerably more trying for her with the introduction of MYOB, bringing us into line with Birds Queensland. This has been an immense learning curve for Sheryl, who has handled it so well, but not without some hiccups. Many thanks to Wayne Lock and Judith Giles who helped Sheryl. A huge thank you to Sheryl for another year in the role. We will have to consider splitting off the Membership from the general finances next year in order to make this huge job manageable as a volunteer position.

Our collaboration with the Port of Brisbane has also continued this year with the count program continuing and the group continuing to analyse data and provide annual updates and a report for the Port on their shorebird populations. We have also undertaken banding expeditions at the Port. We thank them for their continued interest in waders and their support in many forms.

Other unsung volunteers who don't always make the highlights are Peter Rothlisberg, who maintains our meeting minutes and has the unenviable task of making us all accountable for our actions. David Milton who maintains all our data which with online data entry continues to grow. Finally Sandra Harding and Arthur Keates (who's not even a committee member) continue to help draft formal letters and provide advice in relation to conservation legislation, without whom we would all struggle a lot more so, thank you to them too.

This year saw the termination of the Merchandise section of the Group. The remainder of the stock has been put to good use as gifts and promotions for the group.

The newsletter, Queensland Wader, has been presented every quarter with the vast majority of the editions now being sent out as an electronic version. Because of weight restrictions the print version is limited to 18 sides which means that it misses some content, whilst the electronic copy is virtually unlimited. The 100th issue went out at 38 pages! Once again many thanks to Linda and Phil Cross who deliver their content for the Newsletter each quarter and to Arthur Keates for his recent contributions on flag sightings, most interesting.

Some of the key activities in 2017, in no particular order of priority are highlighted below:

### **EDUCATION**

As always a number of wader ID days were held in 2017 with Sheryl and Arthur Keates, Phil and Linda Cross and David Milton and Sandra Harding doing the lion's share of the work and coordination at these events. These days are always popular and give an opportunity for not only the education side of the group but also a meet and greet component that is missing at many of our other activities.

A big thank you to Robert Bush's dedication to the technical side of education, and with funding from the Port of Brisbane, we now see the mobile app for school children (and anyone else) growing in popularity. The app allows and encourages children to look at and record their environment on field trips to wetland areas, record habitat descriptions, identify and record birds and capture notes. Robert has now set up a FaceBook page for the group which is already showing its worth with many contacts and likes for the page. It gives us an avenue to get information out quickly and moves us more into the various media platforms. So now visit <https://www.facebook.com/QueenslandWaderStudyGroup/>.

This along with Sheryl's work with the Moreton Bay Environmental Centre educating young school children about shorebirds is so exciting and to my mind is key to the future of shorebirds. Using tools like the app to engage with them and reinforcing messaging through other interactions and events will hopefully start developing the next generation of shorebird ambassadors. Sheryl and her helpers have seen 1000+ children this year. Congratulations to all who help in this valuable work.

### **THE COUNT PROGRAM**

Linda Cross again tirelessly organised and managed the count programme in 2017 with monthly counts across a whole range of sites in Moreton Bay and further afield up and down the Queensland coast. Online data entry continues to make life easier in terms of data entry, validation and download and we are looking to improve the user experience further with changes to the online entry of flag sightings. Linda is always looking for new counters so if you know anyone, or would like to count your own site please get in touch with her. Thanks not only to Linda but to every one of our members who counts as without you, we would not have been able to contribute as much as we have to shorebird conservation and please don't underestimate the value of consistently counting a location over long periods of time. Our count program has been responsible for some very influential discussion on shorebird declines and has influenced opinion throughout the flyway as a result of this dataset and is held in the highest of esteem.

### **FLAGGING**

Many thanks to Phil Cross for his hard work in entering all the flag sightings that come in, not only that but also giving quarterly reports for the Newsletter. I am sure Phil quivers every time he hears Jon is heading out to do a cannon netting trip. As mentioned above we are looking to improve the observer/user experience further with commitment to providing an online entry of flag sightings

### **SURVEYS**

The Mackay and surrounding area survey was completed late in 2017. Thank you to Peter Driscoll and David Milton for their hard work organising this trip. The survey was a great success with full coverage of the area and a good record of the waders present. We are already planning and organising the 2018 survey in Great Sandy Strait.

Marine Parks also helped with surveys of the Moreton Island roosts again this year, so a huge thank you to them for making surveys of these important areas possible again this year.

### **BANDING AND GEOLOCATORS**

We continued with banding fieldwork throughout the year targeting both migratory and non-migratory shorebirds around Moreton Bay. I thank Jon Coleman for his tireless efforts in preparing for the cannon- and mist-netting days, plus his entering of the resultant data. We continued the finalisation of the Pacific Golden Plover satellite transmitter program which has given some very interesting results about their use of Moreton Bay. We have also started banding and satellite tagging Far Eastern Curlew and Whimbrel for next year with the help of Fudan University in China.

I would like to thank John Coleman for his support as past Chairperson, David Milton for his advice behind the scenes and Peter Rothlisberg for keeping me on track during the Committee meetings. I have been very lucky to become Chair with such an excellent and knowledgeable group of Committee members supporting me.

I am going to take this opportunity to send out a couple of thoughts for the next year:

It is very apparent that the Committee itself is not evolving and I would urge any one of the QWSG members to please consider joining the Committee because we and the waders need our help and input to keep this great group alive and growing.

We need to get our message out to the general public about waders, their charm, fortitude and plight, as well as the basics of what they are and their habitat. We need to educate not only the children but their parents and the users of the Bay and mudflats. Maybe even more we must get in the ear of government so that there are uniform understandings of the use of the foreshore and the policing of these jurisdictions all for the good of the waders.

Thank you to every single committee member and also our non-committee roles such as Phil and Linda. Thank you also to Rae Clark and BQ for their collaboration through the year. We always underestimate the effort required to make a group like this run effectively.

I am sure I have missed someone in this roundup, so to everyone who has contributed to the group in many different ways thank you.

Finally and most importantly, I have to say thank you to all QWSG members for your support and fieldwork over the last 12 months. Without you we achieve nothing and I hope the 2017 report has shown you how important your support, your counts, and your involvement in everything to do with shorebirds really is.

So here is to a great year for you all, good wader watching.

David Edwards – Chairperson QWSG

17th December 2017

## **Count Coordinator's Report to Annual General Meeting 17 December 2017 by Linda Cross**

There have been relatively few changes within the count programme during the year, and thankfully our 2016 counter list remained intact with no losses. Surprisingly we have added 3 new counters, added 3 new sites and resurrected an old site to the count programme.

The first new site to be added to the database is George Bishop Causeway at Toorbul. Dez Wells found the site late in 2015, when he followed a flock of Far Eastern Curlew (461). The site was added to the database in January 2016 and now brings the long list of count sites that Dez surveys each month to 9.

Andy Jensen, who is on our standby counter list, found the second new site at Gregory Road Hay's Inlet and added it to our database, along with himself to the monthly count programme. The site has been counted since early this year and is quite productive producing up to 21 species of waders using the site (including an Asian Dowitcher), which was in a flock of 3,394 waders in March.

The third new site added to the database in May is Comber's Paddock Boonooroo. The site has a freshwater dam on it and is positioned between sites 1 and 2 in Boonooroo, and although I thought it had been added to the database many years ago, it appears that was not. Mainly water birds use the site, but there are a couple of wader species that have been recorded during counts. Bill Price, Cecile Espigole and Peter Tierney now have an additional site to cover each month, bringing their total count sites to 5.

The resurrected site is Dunwich 1 mile, North Stradbroke Island, which had not been counted since 3 September 2010, now has 2 new counters (Mary Barram and Sue Ellen Carew), who have been conducting counts since August.

The access issue at Pine Rivers northside site in 2016 was resolved in early February this year and monthly counts are now back on schedule. Luggage Point counts improved a bit this year with 6 counts being conducted to the end of November. Unfortunately, the December count was not done.

Only 3 counts have been lodged from Wave Break Sand Island on the Gold Coast and no counts have taken place at Mathieson Homestead site in Hervey Bay this year, which is mainly due to the lack of interest from John Knight who is very disappointed that nothing can be done to save this site from mangrove growth.

Mathieson Homestead is not the only site that has this problem and it is something that QWSG probably should include in a proactive approach to the problem.

Moreton Island sites were surveyed 4 times during the year, but the St. Helena Island count sites were only surveyed 3 times.

Online entries by counters continued to be excellent and requiring very little amendments, apart from one or two lapses of memory and failing to follow the instructions. There are still glitches happening on the website with generation of duplicate counts, but much less than the previous year. However, two new glitches have happened when the website failed to identify counts entered on 1st January and a more recent problem with start and finish times not being accepted. Hopefully Jon can get these issues addressed. Two of these issues appear to happen when a few counters are online entering their counts at the same time.

Counts conducted during 2017 are as follows:

- 1,125 programme counts validated to date
- 26 entered on site and waiting to be validated
- 69 yet to be entered by counters

That is a total of 1,220 counts (4 more than 2016), for the year from the count programme. There are approximately an additional 70 counts to be added to the database from the Mackay survey in November.

Unfortunately, David Milton (Database Manager), did not have time to extract some figures for me from the database before he headed overseas, but I have managed to extrapolate some from my own records, but these are only until the end of November. They are as follows:

Once again, Dez Wells was the most prolific counter with 109 entries followed by Arthur Keates with 70 counts (plus additional Moreton & St. Helena Island counts), which would probably bring his counts to around 90. I was the most prolific enterer of data onto the website with 318 entries.

The site most counted during the year was Manly Harbour with 28 entries, and Arthur Keates was certainly the reason for over half of those entries. Kakadu Beach roost on Bribie Island was the second most counted by Michael Strong with 25 entered onto the website followed by Buckley's Hole on Bribie Island with 23 counts, which came from Dez Wells, Michael Strong and a couple of other people.

I cannot give you a figure for the total number of species counted this year, however, if we add the figures I have mentioned above for counts, this will give us the number of visits to roosts, which will bring the total to 32,461 since 1992.

The count programme would not exist if it were not for the tireless work of our dedicated counters, to whom I sincerely thank for their efforts.

Jon has had a more relaxing year as I probably only needed his assistance once or twice during 2017 and I continued to strive for punctuality (well I think so, but that might be arguable), with my articles to David Edwards for the newsletter.

Unfortunately for David Milton, I still had regular contact with him via email, home phone and mobile with some queries and discussions relating to the count programme, but much less than previous years.

Many thanks to those mentioned above for their assistance during the year, and I would also like to thank the rest of the group (on and off committee) for their committed involvement with the QWSG.

## **Port of Brisbane Report.**

In the absence of Peter Rothlisberg, I (Linda Cross) have put together a summary of the QWSG's contracted work with the Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd.

I continued to liaise with Sheryl Keates to keep the Port counter/induction list up to date, and then ensure Peter Rothlisberg and Nadene Perry (Port of Brisbane) were kept informed accordingly.

In 2016 we have been fortunate to have had good weather with only 1 count (October) not taking place due to rain. However, we have still managed to complete 12 counts as 2 were conducted in January, with the first one taking place on New Year's Day, which was due to a conversation I had with Michael Linde and him kindly offering to give up his public holiday and be the Port representative for the day, along with our regular QWSG people. In total, 156 Port counts have been added to the database this year.

Attendance by QWSG members has been quite good, with between 10 and 13 volunteers each month. February was the exception with 16 in attendance. This was also the month that the highest count of waders was recorded, with a total of 12,511 being counted for all sites.

White-out tape is still very much in use when I get the count sheets home to make them readable before I scan and email to the Port of Brisbane, so perhaps a lesson or two might be in order before we start counting in 2018.

I would like to thank Craig Wilson, Michael Linde, Nadene Perry and Jessica Rudd from the Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd for looking after us during the counts.

Thanks also need to go to Peter Rothlisberg for organising the emails and allocating sites, Sheryl Keates for liaising with me on memberships and finally the counters who turn up each month to conduct the count.

## Leg Flag Database Report to QWSG Annual General Meeting

**17 December 2017 by Phil Cross**

This leg flag database report has been compiled by Linda Cross in Phil's absence, with data taken from his Updated Master Flag File with the last entry being the 16 November 2017.

The leg flag database currently consists of 22,557 records, which is 4,739 more entries since the 2016 AGM report. This is quite an increase on last year's sightings of 2,539. However, there are more flag sightings that have not been entered into the database and are waiting for Phil to process on his return from overseas, which would obviously have contributed to a bigger increase had they been entered.

Three observers have between them reported 3,566 of the total entries seen in Queensland since the last leg flag report. I don't think it would be an understatement to say that the person recording 2,263 might have an obsession when it comes to looking for flags. Of course, that person would-be Arthur Keates. Dez Wells with 740 sighting, and Tony Cotter with 563 sightings don't even come close. On behalf of the QWSG Phil would like to thank all 3 of them for their sterling efforts.

### **Green Leg flags.**

A total of 4,490 green flagged birds (of which 4,406 were recorded in Moreton Bay), were added to the database since the last report. This is quite a significant increase on last year's report total of 2,539. Plain flags were recorded on 50 entries.

### **Green flags seen overseas.**

Overseas sightings of 76 QWSG green leg flags were very low compared to last year's report of 209. However, this low total may well be the result of the AWSG data entry person (Joris) being away and returning just before Phil went away. There would probably be a few months' sightings that neither of them have processed yet.

Reports came from 6 different countries as follows:

China – 3 records, all engraved flags on 2 Great Knot and 1 Ruddy Turnstone.

Japan – 16 records, all engraved flags on 11 Grey-tailed Tattler, 2 Bar-tailed Godwit, 2 Great Knot and 1 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

New Zealand – 19 records all engraved flags on Bar-tailed Godwit.

South Korea – 36 records, all engraved flags on 35 Bar-tailed Godwit and 1 Great Knot. Andreas Kim reported all but one of the 36 sightings.

Taiwan – 1 record of engraved Great Knot ALN.

USA (Alaska) – 1 record of engraved Whimbrel CJX,

### **Green flagged birds seen interstate.**

4 engraved flagged Australian Pied Oystercatcher were reported from northern New South Wales and 1 record of engraved flagged Curlew Sandpiper AZA came from Newcastle on the central coast of New South Wales.

### **Green flagged birds seen away from Moreton Bay.**

There were 3 birds with engraved flags recorded quite some distance from Moreton Bay, which included, Grey-tailed Tattler engraved BXF seen on Cairns Esplanade on 27 August, another Grey-tailed Tattler engraved BDL also seen on Cairns Esplanade on 1 September 2017 and a Great Knot engraved AJW seen at Maaroom on 5 September 2017

### **Overseas flagged birds reported as being seen in Queensland.**

The number of overseas flagged birds seen in Queensland during 2017 totalled 166, which is 2 more than 2015 (164), but is 25 less than 2016 (191).

**China.**

Once again, the highest number of overseas flagged birds recorded came from China with a total of 74 sightings (down by 2 since last year).

Black/white combination (Chong Ming-Dao) – 46, of which 35 had engraved white flags.

Blue/yellow combination (Bohai Bay) – 7 sightings of the same bird (Red Knot) with engraved E19 on blue flag in Wynnum/Manly area.

Blue/yellow **cut** combination (Cangzhou) – 1 on a Curlew Sandpiper first spotted by Nadene Perry at the Port of Brisbane on 27 August 2017.

Green/orange combination (Yalu Jiang) – 15 records all on Bar-tailed Godwits, of which 1 was reported from Brisbane Airport with just the 2 coloured flags. There were 13 records of “Mr Bling” from Toorbul and Kakadu Beach roost, with the last sighting of him on 1 April 2017. Unfortunately, there have not been any sightings of “Mr Bling” since then that I am aware of. We can only hope that a record is waiting in the pile of work waiting for Phil.

Green/blue combination (Jiangsu) – 5 sightings of probably the same bird (Lesser Sand Plover) at Manly Harbour.

**Japan.**

Just a slight increase in sighting since 2016 and 2015 with a total of 57 records.

Blue (Hokkaido) – 18 records.

Blue/white combination (Torinoumi area, Honshu) – 39 records with blue flag engraved.

Blue/white **cut** combination (Yatsu-Higata, Honshu) – 1 record.

**Korea.**

No sightings.

**Mongolia.**

Blue/green combination – 1 sighting on a Red-necked Stint at the Port of Brisbane, and notably the first known record of a flagged bird from this country, with relatively few birds yet flagged. It was also the first overseas flagged bird for the year recorded on 1 January 2017.

**New Zealand.**

Our cousins across the ditch make sure we must work hard to record their flagged birds with a variety of flagging combinations to look out for.

In total, 26 flagged birds were sighted with flag combinations as follows:

White – 15 records of which 10 were engraved flags.

White engraved flag and 1 band combinations – 2 sightings of the same bird at Wynnum/Manly.

White flag and 4 band combinations – 6 sightings of possibly the same bird at Wynnum/Manly.

Red flag and 4 coloured band combinations – 1 sighting at Gatakers Bay, Point Vernon, Hervey Bay on 27 September 2017.

Red flag, 4 coloured band combinations & geolocator – 2 sightings of the same bird at Toorbul which hung around for two weeks as it was seen on 11 and 24 October 2017.

**Russia.**

Black/yellow combination – 4 sightings all on Great Knot with engraved yellow flag (Kamchatka).

Lime green band right tibia (no flag) – 2 sightings, both on Red Knot (Chukotka).

**Taiwan.**

White/blue combination – only 1 record this year reported on a Red-necked Stint, which carried an engraved white flag. There were 5 records of this combination in 2016, and all on Greater Sand Plover.

**Unknown.**

There is a report of a Lesser Sand Plover with a question mark over a white flag on the right tibia seen at Wynnum Esplanade on 16 January 2017.

**USA (Alaska).**

No sightings

**Interstate leg flags seen in Queensland.****Victoria.**

A total of 74 sightings of waders with a single orange flag were recorded, which was a slight increase on the 61 reported last year. An engraved leg flag was recorded on 20 of the 74 sightings and 38 were reported as plain orange flag.

**New South Wales.**

There were 6 reports for engraved yellow flagged Australian Pied Oystercatcher and 1 yellow flag reported on a Beach Stone Curlew. An engraved yellow flagged Australian Pied Oystercatcher was also reported from 1 of the count programme sites in Tweed Heads.

**Western Australia.**

Just 1 record of yellow flagged bird compared to 13 in last year's report. However, it was an unusual sighting of a Red-necked Avocet with an engraved yellow flag at Maaroom on 25 June 2107.

Phil would like me to pass on his sincere thanks to all the people who have taken the time to record and report all leg flag sightings to him. Please continue to look for more leg flags and report them.

## Interstate and Overseas Observations of SE Queensland Flagged Great Knot

by Arthur Keates

Following on from the report in the last newsletter of observations in Queensland of Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) banded at Chongming Dongtan, People's Republic of China, this is a summary of reported interstate and overseas observations of south-east Queensland (SEQ) banded Great Knot.

At the end of September, 2017, QWSG's leg flag database had 1864 records of observations of Great Knot fitted with green leg flags, either a plain leg flag (PLF) or an engraved leg flag (ELF). It is worth noting, 314 Great Knot have been fitted with an ELF.

All interstate reports relate to observations in NSW: the Richmond River estuary (1), Clarence River estuary (2) and Shoalhaven Heads area (6). With only one exception, all of these observations were made during the Austral summer of birds fitted with a PLF. An observation of Great Knot **AEK** near Ballina on 17 August 2014 is the only report of that bird south of Moreton Bay; 4 observations of it before and after that date were made at roost sites in Pumicestone Passage.

In contrast to the paucity of interstate reports of leg flagged Great Knot (itself a factor suggesting site faithfulness), overseas observations account for 101 of the records in the leg flag database, including reports relating to observations of 40 individuals fitted with ELFs.

Apart from a report of a PLF observed in the Western Province, Papua New Guinea on 23 October 2001 (presumably a bird on southern migration), all other reports are from countries in the northern hemisphere.

**Micronesia**

**BEA**, a bird banded at Gladstone on 31 January 2015, was observed there 4 times in 2015 before it was observed on 8 and 9 April 2016 on northern migration at Peleliu Lakes Important Bird Area, Peleliu, Palau. Possibly due to limited access to, or observation effort in, the banding area, **BEA** has not been since the last observation at Palau.

**China**

It is well known that Great Knot rely heavily on the Yellow Sea region as a staging site, especially on northern migration. This is reflected by 12 reports of observations in the region between 1 April and 16 May while only 2 reports relate to birds on southern migration at a more southerly site, Jiangsu. The Yalu Jiang Nature Reserve (YJNR) and adjacent Dandong, account for over half of the observations on northern migration, the earliest in any year on 24 April and the latest in any year on 16 May, fitting in with the birds' departure on the last leg of their migratory journey to the breeding grounds.

Unfortunately, of the 4 ELFs reported at YJNR, 3 were misread in the testing conditions and only an observation of **AEV** is recorded in the database at YJNR, a bird on northern migration on 13 May 2013 (see Table 1 and discussion relating to it).

**Taiwan**

All 10 observations in Taiwan (3 PLFs and 6 ELFs) were of birds on northern migration, the earliest in any year on 4 April and the latest in any year on 19 April. It is quite likely, the birds then moved further north to their last staging site (possibly YJNR) before going on to the breeding grounds. After an observation of **AUD** on 25 March 2015 at Toorbul, where it was banded 15 months earlier, it was observed in Taoyuan County, on 13 and 16 April 2015. **AUD** returned to SEQ, having been observed at a roost site on Bribie Island, on 10 January 2016, but has not been observed since then.



**Japan**

Reports of observations of 17 PLFs and 13 ELF's in Japan relate to sites scattered from the island of Okinawa in the south to the north-eastern coast of the island of Honshu. All but 5 of the observations were of birds on northern migration, the earliest in any year on 7 April and the latest in any year on 21 May. The exceptions relate to 4 observations of birds on southern migration and an individual fitted with an unread ELF on 2 Feb 2013, seemingly very early for a bird on northern migration.

Banded at Toorbul on 3 February 2013, **BBE** and **BBT** were seen in Pumicestone Passage on 24 and 23 March 2013 respectively, just prior to northern migration. Both were seen about 3 weeks later on 13 April at the mouth of the Anou River, Tsu, on the island of Honshu. On their return to SEQ, both birds were observed at their banding site, on 13 September and 29 August 2013 respectively (see Tables 1 and 2). **BAT**, also banded at Toorbul on 3 February 2013, was observed at a different stopover site, Takasu Beach on the northern shore of Shikoku, on 11 April 2013 and on its return to SEQ at Toorbul 29 August 2013 (see Table 2).



Great Knot **BBT** at mouth of Anou River, Tsu-shi Mie-ken, Honshu, Japan. Photo: Kenichi Katayama

**South Korea**

Of the 27 reports of leg flag observations in South Korea, 9 relate to 7 individuals with ELF's fitted. All but 2 of the reports relate to observations on northern migration, the earliest in any year on, 5 April and the latest in any year, on 16 May. Two of these birds, **AEL** and **BAU** were observed back in SEQ later in the year (see Table 2). The other 2 reports relate to what was presumably the same bird fitted with a PLF observed at the same site on 23 and 28 August, on southern migration.

**Russia**

The most northerly observations reported were made in Russia, all birds fitted with ELF's. One of the birds, **AJV**, was observed on 23 and 24 May 2015 at Ola Lagoon, Russia, within the breeding area for the species (marked on map). **AJV** was not reported again until the following year, when it was observed on 3 September at Toorbul.



Red triangles are stopover sites used by Great Knot on migration and the likely breeding area of **AJV** at Ola Lagoon, Russia.



All other Russian records relate to observations of 10 individuals fitted with ELF's at the Khairusovo and Belogovaya Rivers estuary on the western side of Kamchatka, Russia. In July and August 2016, QWSG member Robert Bush took part in a wader research expedition to this area (see Robert's report in Issue 98 of Queensland Wader). During that expedition, between 4 July and 5 August, 6 individuals were observed, including **BCM** which had been observed in the same area in 2015 but unfortunately has not been reported again. However, 7 of the birds reported in Russia were later observed back in SEQ.

For those birds for which there is pertinent data, the following table shows the last observation dates in SEQ, and the first observation date at a stopover site in the northern hemisphere site:

Table 1

ELF	Date and Place of Last SEQ Observation Before Northern Migration		Date and Place of First Northern Hemisphere Observation on Northern Migration	
AEV	24 Mar 2013	Toorbul	13 May 2013	YJNR, China
AUD	25 Mar 2015	Toorbul	13 Apr 2015	Taoyuan County, Taiwan
BBE	24 Mar 2013	Bribie Is	13 Apr 2013	Anou River mouth, Tsu, Japan
BBT	23 Mar 2013	Toorbul	13 Apr 2013	Anou River mouth, Tsu, Japan

Except for **AEV**, allowing for the birds' flight time to their destination, the data gives an indication, within a few days of the last observation in SEQ or the first observation at the stopover site in the northern hemisphere, of the birds' departure and arrival dates.

In the case of **AEV**, one can speculate with some certainty (on the basis of other research of shorebirds using the Yellow Sea region) that **AEV** had made a stopover at another staging site where it first made landfall before moving further north to YJNR where it stayed until continuing on its last leg of the journey to the breeding grounds.

For birds observed on their northern migration, the following table shows the date of the first observation on their return to SEQ:

Table 2

ELF	Date and Place of Observation on Northern Migration		Date and Place of SEQ Observation after Southern Migration	
AEL	11 Apr 2016	Aphae Is, South Korea	19 Sep 2016	Bribie Is
BAT	11 Apr 2013	Takasu Beach, Japan	29 Aug 2013	Toorbul
BAU	15 Apr 2013	Gomso Bay Geum Estuary, South Korea	12 Sep 2013	Toorbul
BBE	13 Apr 2013	Anou River mouth, Tsu, Japan	12 Sep 2013	Toorbul
BBT	13 Apr 2013	Anou River mouth, Tsu, Japan	29 Aug 2013	Toorbul

Of course, the birds may have gone unobserved for a short time on their return to SEQ, so the dates observed in SEQ aren't necessarily the birds' actual arrival dates, but they do give an indication of the time of their arrival.

So far as longevity is concerned, the oldest reported individuals are **AEL** and **AEV**, both banded at Toorbul on 23 September 2012, and **BBE** and **BBT** both banded at Toorbul on 3 February 2013, all aged 2+ when banded. These birds have been observed on northern migration (see Tables 1 and 2) and have showed site faithfulness during the Austral summer having been observed regularly at roost sites in the Pumicestone Passage. At the time of the last observation, each of these birds would have been at least 6 years old.

This glimpse into the migration of the Great Knot would not have been possible without the reports of leg flag observations (particularly by observers at sites in the Pumicestone Passage) or Phil Cross's ongoing efforts in maintaining QWSG's leg flag database.

## Thank You

This goes out to Richard Fuller, who, because of all of his commitments, is standing down from the committee. Thank you for your contributions over the last couple of years and your dedication to waders. I know this is on-going and that we will be able to contact you at any time for your advice. The Committee, the QWSG membership and I thank you.

David Edwards, Chairperson QWSG

## Sandpiper go the Extra 8,000 Miles to Have as Much Sex as Possible

A bird smaller than a city pigeon has been recorded flying 13,000km (8,000 miles) in just one month to have sex with as many females as possible

In behaviour never witnessed before, male pectoral sandpipers were observed travelling to as many as 24 different “breeding sites” in northern Alaska within a single season, a team of scientists wrote in the journal *Nature*.

A breeding season lasts a mere four to six weeks.

“Males have to reduce their sleep and defend and court females virtually non-stop throughout the endless Arctic summer days to successfully reproduce,” the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology, in Seewiesen, Germany, said in a statement.



*Male pectoral sandpipers go to great lengths literally to mate with as many females as possible by flying between distant breeding sites hundreds of kilometres apart within a single breeding season. Photograph: Katharina Kapetanopoulos/AFP/Getty Images*

The average bird covered some 3,000km (further than flying from Paris to Moscow) – but one particularly determined specimen was recorded flying 13,045km in just four weeks.

And this was after the birds, which are about 21cm (8.3in) long and weigh about 100g (3.5oz), journeyed halfway across the globe from South America, where they overwinter, to their Alaskan breeding grounds.

“Before we made this discovery, it was thought that birds (males and females) migrate from their wintering area to a single site, where they breed in that year,” said the institute’s Bart Kempenaers, who co-authored the study based on tracking 120 radio-tagged sandpipers.

Competition for females is tough among these polygynous birds, and those who settle down in a single spot had little chance of copulation.

“We think that they have developed the strategy to assess their local chances, and if they are not good, they just move on to the next place,” said Kempenaers.

The most successful bird sired 22 offspring with six different females.

This article was first published by The Guardian on 10 Jan 2017.

## Count Programme - Linda Cross

Following on from previous newsletters, I have continued recording wader species and numbers in the table below for other count sites within the count programme. In this issue, we move to the northside of Brisbane. List as per IOC taxonomic order.

Species	GRHI 13 Jan 18	DOHL 02 Jan 18	PRNS 15 Jan 18	PRWR 13 Jan 18	KBWL 15 Jan 18	LUPO 13 Jan 18
Bush Stone-curlew						4
Pied Oystercatcher	13					2
White-headed Stilt			103	43	189	28
Red-necked Avocet					210	
Masked Lapwing	11		4	5	28	16
Black-fronted Dotterel					4	
Red-kneed Dotterel					18	
Pacific Golden Plover	2					311
Red-capped Plover	98			33		35
Black-fronted Dotterel					18	5
Black-tailed Godwit			56			
Bar-tailed Godwit	9	481	7	60		
Whimbrel	57	6	94	80		15
Far Eastern Curlew	36	2		31		27
Common Greenshank			3	7		
Great Knot	3		7			117
Red Knot	11					
Red-necked Stint	173			36		3179
Pectoral Sandpiper					3	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	42		9	79	110	1259
Curlew Sandpiper						213

GRHI – Gregory Road, Hay's Inlet

DOHL – Osprey House/Dohles Rocks

PRNS – Pine Rivers Northside opposite Deepwater Bend

PRWR – Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve

KBWL – Kedron Brook Wetland

LUPO – Luggage Point

Counter – Andy Jensen

Counters – Graham & Brenda Smith

Counter – David Edwards

Counter – Vicki Campbell \*\*\*\*

Counter – Dez Wells

Counters – Ivell & Jim Whyte

\*\*\*\* Although Vicki Campbell is the registered counter for Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve, Ross Smith and Rob Clemens often assist, or do the count for Vicki if she is away.

All count sites in the above table are high tide roost counts, except for Osprey House/Dohles Rocks, which is a low tide count area that Graham and Brenda cover. Toward the end of January Kedron Brook Wetlands was hosting not only Pectoral Sandpiper, but also 2 Long-toed Stint.

Unfortunately, we are saying goodbye to one of our Mackay counters who has decided to retire from the count programme on a regular basis due to advancing years which include some health issues that come with ageing, and also the decline in the species and number of shorebirds at the sites. Stella Mearns has been living at Seaforth for nearly 40 years and what was once a quiet area with few residents and weekenders, has now become more populated with permanent residents and visitors to the area with upgraded roads and a council owned Caravan Park. Stella said that cyclones and climate change have had an effect on the roosting areas, and that the lack of a buffer between shorebirds and the human recreation is just too much for the birds. With some offshore islands in the area, Stella hopes that at least some of the shorebirds are finding other suitable habitat. Stella has been counting 3 sites at Seaforth Beach, north of Mackay since October 2009 and with the entry of her last counts on 12 January 2018, has contributed 236 counts to the database. Stella has told me that if she sees anything of interest she will let me know. Our sincere thanks Stella for your dedication to the count programme and hope you have many years of just sitting watching birds, instead of counting them.

In the last newsletter I included a table recording the percentage of juvenile Bar-tailed Godwits in southward migration flocks during September and October. There have been 3 more responses to this request for data from November counts, and the results are in the table below.

Site	Date	Number of godwits	Juveniles in flock	%
Boonooroo Site 1 – Adair Street	18.11.17	706	About 10%	10
Gregory Road, Hays Inlet	18.11.17	119	17	14.2
Cairns Esplanade	18.11.17	48	2	0.4

By the time you receive this newsletter there should be some new arrivals from across the Tasman (New Zealand), so please check those sand plovers carefully for any Double-banded Plover among them.

Unusual sightings include 3 Pectoral Sandpiper at Kedron Brook Wetlands on 15.01.18 (as seen in the count site table), 2 Common Sandpiper at Queensland Aluminium Limited, Gladstone on 12.01.18, 1 Asian Dowitcher at the Port of Brisbane claypan on 14.01.18, 1 Asian Dowitcher at Manly Harbour on 16.12.17 and 1 Wood Sandpiper at Garnet's Lagoon No. 2, Hervey Bay on 16.12.17.

Broad-billed Sandpiper have been recorded at 3 sites since November, with 69 at the Port of Brisbane on 19.11.17, then dropping to 27 on 17.12.17, before increasing to 80 on 14.01.18. At Manly Harbour 18 were counted on 02.01.18 and then dropped to 6 by 13.01.18. The only other site recording this species was the Port of Bundaberg with 1 on 19.11.17.

A total of 17 sites recorded Pacific Golden Plover during the last 3 months with the Port of Brisbane and Luggage Point being the most attractive to the species. The 17.12.17 count at the Port of Brisbane recorded 373 on site, before dropping to 162 on 14.01.18 which was probably because 311 were recorded across the river at Luggage Point the day before and were possibly there again. Other reasonable counts came from King Street mudflats at Thornlands with 170 on 18.11.17, Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay with 120 on 18.11.17 and 101 at Manly Harbour on 13.01.18. Several other sites had totals more than 50, while a few had lower numbers.

Marsh Sandpiper has been recorded at 13 sites since November with Maaroom reporting quite a large number not seen for some time, with 54 on 13.01.18, and interestingly the same number were recorded on site during the Great Sandy Strait Survey the following week on 20.01.18. The next best counts came from Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve with 24 on 16.12.17, Redcliffe Airport northside with 16 on 18.11.17, Kinka Wetlands Yepoon with 13 on 13.01.18 and Bundaberg Port with 12 on 19.11.17. All other sites had counts in single digits.

Red-necked Stint was recorded at 12 sites during the last few months with the highest counts being 3,179 at Luggage Point on 13.01.18 and 2,473 at the Port of Brisbane claypan on 17.12.17. The whole of the Port of Brisbane complex recorded 2,100 on 19.11.17 and 1,962 on 14.01.18. At Lytton No.1 claypan 1,068 were recorded on 14.12.17 and 921 at Geoff Skinner Reserve East on 18.11.17.

There are only a few sites in the count programme that record Ruddy Turnstone, and over the last few months Manly Harbour appears to be a favourite site with the highest count being 53 on 18.11.17 before dropping to 46 on 13.01.18. The Port of Brisbane is another favoured site for the species with 37 within the complex on 17.12.17 before dropping to 31 on 14.01.18. The other sites recording this species were Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay with 11 on 18.11.17, Gable's Point Rocks, Hervey Bay with 5 on 12.01.18 and Lytton No.1 claypan with 1 bird on 14.12.17.

During the last 3 months Sharp-tailed Sandpiper has been recorded at 16 sites, and although the counts at the most of them were less than 100 birds, there were some reasonable totals at others. Luggage Point attracted 1,259 birds on 13.01.18 and Bundaberg Port recorded 776 on 19.11.17. Other reasonable counts came from Pine Rives Wetland Reserve with 349 on 16.12.17, Gregory Road, Hays Inlet with 349 on 18.11.17, Port of Brisbane claypan with 346 on 17.12.17 and Manly Harbour with 302 on 13.01.18.

Although never in great numbers, Greater Sand Plover were recorded at 10 sites the last few months with Shellgrit Creek entrance in Mackay recording the highest count of 220 on 18.11.17, followed by Gable's Point Rocks, Hervey Bay with 155 on 29.12.18, then O'Regan's Creek westside, Hervey Bay with 124 on 13.01.18, Point Vernon with 113 on 29.12.18 and finally Port of Brisbane with 103 on 17.12.17. The remaining sites recorded less than 50 birds.

Count sites where Grey Plover was recorded increased to 9 from November to January, which is 4 more than detailed in the last newsletter. Combined totals from Boonooroo sites 1 and 2 on 18.11.17 were 97, but then dropped to 77 on 15.12.17 before increasing to 105 on 19.01.18. The next best counts came from Mirapool Beach, Moreton Island with 37 on 18.01.18 and Port of Brisbane with 33 on 19.11.17. All other sites were in single digits.

Some other interesting records extracted from counts below (see also "Interesting wader sightings):

461 Far Eastern Curlew – George Bishop Causeway, Toorbul – 16.11.17  
 363 Far Easter Curlew – Mirapool Beach, Moreton Island – 18.01.18  
 335 Whimbrel – Toorbul – 16.11.17  
 2,920 Bar-tailed Godwit – Mirapool Beach, Moreton Island – 18.01.18  
 2,445 Bar-tailed Godwit – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – 03.01.18  
 2,233 Bar-tailed Godwit – Toorbul – 16.12.17  
 296 Black-tailed Godwit – Pine Rivers Northside – 17.11.17  
 207 Pied Oystercatcher – Port of Brisbane – 14.01.18  
 29 Common Greenshank – Kougari Street (Site 3), Boonaroo – 15.12.17  
 29 Common Greenshank – Geoff Skinner Reserve West – 18.11.17  
 291 White-headed Stilt – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 19.11.17  
 281 Red-necked Avocet – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 19.11.17  
 127 Red-necked Avocet – Trute's Bay, Tweed Heads – 11.11.17  
 7 Latham's Snipe – Garnet's Lagoon No. 1, Hervey Bay – 18.11.17  
 910 Great Knot – Maaroom – 18.11.17  
 151 Terek Sandpiper – Manly Harbour – 02.01.18  
 1,259 Grey-tailed Tattler – Port of Brisbane – 14.10.18  
 792 Grey-tailed Tattler – Manly Harbour – 13.01.18  
 74 Sanderling – Mirapool Beach, Moreton Island – 18.01.18  
 220 Greater Sand Plover – Shellgrit Creek entrance, Mackay – 14.11.17  
 1,123 Lesser Sand Plover – Port of Brisbane – 17.12.17  
 2,366 Curlew Sandpiper – Port of Brisbane – 17.12.17  
 273 Red-capped Plover – O'Regan's Creek westside, Hervey Bay – 18.11.17  
 37 Red-kneed Dotterel – Kedron Brook Wetlands – 19.11.17  
 12 Black-fronted Dotterel – Redcliffe Airport Northside – 18.11.17

Unfortunately, it is not always possible to include all articles in the paper version of the newsletter as there is a page limit for posting, so "Interesting wader sightings" and "Not waders but of interest anyway" sections may not appear. However, if you have an email address please ask for the electronic version, which has all the articles that could not be included in the paper version. The electronic version is also in colour.

### **Breeding records:**

Beach Stone-curlew – 1 chick recorded with 3 adults at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 03.12.17 and on 5 more occasions since that date, with the last sighting on 21.01.18

White-headed Stilt – 1 bird on a nest at Luggage Point on 13.01.18, 1 bird on a nest at Manly Harbour on 16.12.17, 1 chick (week old) at Kianawah Wetland on 14.12.17, 7 nests with eggs at Queensland Aluminium entrance mudflats on 14.12.17 and 3 runners at Pine Rivers Wetland Reserve on 18.11.17.

Pied Oystercatcher – 1 juvenile at Manly Harbour on 02.01.18, 1 half-grown youngster at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 27.12.17, 1 fledgling at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 17.12.17, 2 chicks at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 10.12.17, 1 bird nesting at Port of Brisbane Artificial Roost on 24.11.17 and birds behaving as if they had a chick at Wave Break Sand Island, Gold Coast on 17.11.17

Masked Lapwing – 1 half grown chick at Maaroom on 17.12.17 and 3 chicks at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 19.11.17.

Black-fronted Dotterel – 1 chick at Queensland Aluminium entrance mudflats, Gladstone on 14.12.17 and 1 youngster at Buckley's Hole sandbar, Bribie Island on 19.11.17.

Red-capped Plover – several immature at Endeavour River claypan, Cooktown on 14.01.18, 1 well grown juvenile at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 14.01.18, 6 chicks (some birds have bred 3 times) at Queensland Aluminium ash pond, Gladstone on 12.01.18, 1 juvenile at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 31.12.17, 1 chick at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 17.12.17, 1 chick at Manly Harbour on 16.12.17, 1 on a nest at O'Regan's Creek westside, Hervey Bay on 16.12.17, 2 chicks (approximately a week old) at Seaforth Beach creek mouth, north of Mackay on 15.12.17, 8 chicks at Queensland Aluminium ash pond, Gladstone on 14.12.17, 1 chick at Queensland Aluminium entrance mudflats, Gladstone on 14.12.17, 1 chick at Queensland Aluminium settling pond, Gladstone on 14.12.17, a pair nesting at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 10.12.17, 2 newly hatched chicks at Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island on 03.12.17 and 1 chick at Port of Brisbane Artificial roost on 24.11.17.

Counters not entering their counts online, please continue to send them to me at my email or postal address as follows: [xxxxxxx](#) Snail mail: xxxxxx Phone: xxxxx

**A reminder that Leg flag sightings must not be entered online during count entry. Please also note that flag sightings emailed to Phil should be sent to his new email address** Please contact Phil or myself for the Leg Flag Observation Report Form.

### Interesting wader sightings

- 4 Sooty Oystercatcher – Wickham Point – 13.01.18
  - 3 Wandering Tattler – Gable's Point Rocks, Hervey Bay – 20.01.18
  - 1 Wandering Tattler – Port of Brisbane – 19.11.17
  - 61 Masked Lapwing – Bishop's Marsh, Toorbul – 12.01.18
  - 2 Latham's Snipe – Nathan Road Wetland, Redcliffe – 13.01.18 & 18.11.17
  - 249 White-headed Stilt – Deception Bay South – 18.11.17
  - 246 White-headed Stilt – Lytton – 18.11.17
  - 10 Terek Sandpiper – Cairns Esplanade – 18.11.17
  - 10 Black-fronted Dotterel – Bishop's Marsh, Toorbul – 18.11.17
  - 4 Comb-crested Jacana – Garnet's Lagoon No.1, Hervey Bay – 20.01.18
  - 600 Great Knot – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – 03.12.17
  - 1 Greater Sand Plover (unusual at site) – Caboolture River mouth – 16.01.18
  - 29 Common Greenshank – Thangawan Creek, Great Sandy Strait – 14.01.18
  - 458 Lesser Sand Plover – Gable's Point Rocks, Hervey Bay – 12.01.18
  - 153 Red-capped Plover – Geoff Skinner Reserve East – 13.01.18
  - 35 Red Knot – Gregory Road, Hays Inlet – 16.12.17 with 11 still on site 13.01.18
  - 15 Red Knot – Toorbul – 16.12.17
  - 7 Red Knot – Cairns Esplanade – 16.12.17
- (Unusually high number of Red Knot at sites above for the those months)

### Not waders but of interest anyway

- 11 Buff-banded Rail (2 adults with 5 chicks and 1 adult with 3 chicks) – Kakadu Beach roost, Bribie Island – 01.01.18
- 5 Australasian Shoveler – Garnet's Lagoon No.1, Hervey Bay – 16.12.17
- 1 Baillon's Crake – Garnet's Lagoon No.1, Hervey Bay – 20.01.18
- 1 Hoary-headed Grebe – Garnet's Lagoon No.1, Hervey Bay – 20.01.18
- 1 Black Bittern – Endeavour River claypan, Cooktown – 14.01.18 & 17.11.17
- 2 Black-necked Stork (both immature birds) – Endeavour River claypan, Cooktown – 17.11.17
- 1 Black-necked Stork – Bundaberg Port – 14.01.18
- 82 Glossy Ibis – Bundaberg Port – 14.01.18
- 1 Magpie Goose (on nest in reeds) – Port of Brisbane Lake – 17.12.17
- 4 Magpie Goose – Port of Brisbane Lake – 14.01.18
- 12 Short-tailed Shearwater – Manly Harbour – 02.01.18
- 1 Yellow-billed Spoonbill – Garnet's Lagoon No.2, Hervey Bay – 14.01.18
- 1 Brown Falcon – Gregory Road, Hays Inlet – 13.01.18
- 2 Black Swan (First record for site) – Trute's Bay, Tweed Heads – 07.01.18
- 220 White-winged Black Tern – Garnet's Lagoon No. 1, Hervey Bay – 18.11.17
- 134 White-winged Black Tern – O'Regan's Creek westside, Hervey Bay – 16.12.17
- 1 White-necked Heron – Queensland Aluminium Ltd, Gladstone – 12.01.18 & 14.12.17
- 1 White-necked Heron – Garnet's Lagoon No.2, Hervey Bay – 20.01.18
- 380 Chestnut Teal – Bundaberg Port – 14.01.18
- 200 Cattle Egret – Trute's Bay, Tweed Heads – 09.12.17
- 1,050 Crested Tern – Noosa River sandbanks – 08.12.17
- 320 Common Tern – Maroochy River Northshore – 12.01.18
- 8 Australasian Darter – Lillis Island, Tweed Heads – 09.12.17
- 1 Pink-eared Duck – Bundaberg Port – 17.12.17
- 296 Hardhead – Bundaberg Port – 17.12.17
- 243 Grey Teal – Bundaberg Port – 17.12.17
- 9 Wandering Whistling Duck – Garnet's Lagoon No.2, Hervey Bay – 13.01.18
- 3 Wandering Whistling Duck – Queensland Aluminium Ltd mangroves – 13.01.18
- 9 Plumed Whistling Duck – Comber's Paddock, Boonooroo – 13.01.18
- 4 Rajah Shelduck – Kinka Beach, Yeppoon – 13.01.18
- 8 Lesser Crested Tern – sandbank off Amity Point – 18.01.18
- 4 Lesser Crested Tern – Gable's Point Rocks, Hervey Bay – 12.01.18
- 115 Australian Pelican – Garnet's Lagoon No. 1, Hervey Bay – 18.11.17
- 1 Eastern Reef Egret (Dark) – Tweet River entrance, Tweed Heads – 09.12.17

Happy counting.

Linda Cross.



## WADER WATCH - Phil Cross

Can everyone please remember to use the 'Leg Flag Observation Report' form. **Please email leg flag sightings to Phil on his new email address.**

Can we also please ask people to carefully check which leg the flag is on. If you are not sure, or just see the colour, and do not know which leg it is, please do not make it up. We do record the sighting on the database, even if we do not know which leg it was on. Recording information that you have not seen, or do not know creates extra work for Phil and other people who this information goes to. We would appreciate your cooperation on this issue.

### GREEN leg flag sightings seen in QLD

Since the last newsletter 2002 sightings of green flags in Moreton Bay & Environs and 1 at Townsville were added to the database, only 8 of these were sightings of plain flags. The species recorded and the number of observations were as follows. Bar-tailed Godwit 611, Broad-billed Sandpiper 1, Curlew Sandpiper 49, Eastern Curlew 5, Great Knot 88, Greater Sand Plover 63, Grey Plover 3, Grey-tailed Tattler 497, Lesser Sand Plover 260, Pacific Golden Plover 62, Pied Oystercatcher 59, Pied Stilt 8, Red-necked Stint 147, Ruddy Turnstone 75, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 34, Terek Sandpiper 5 and Whimbrel 36.

They were sighted by Sarah Beavis, John Bell, Vince Bugeja, Michele Burford, Robert Bush, Jon Coleman, Judy Coles, Tony Cotter, Phil Cross, Barb Dickson, Graham Donaldson, Julian Foster, Richard Fuller, Chris Gregory, Sandra Harding, Paul Hinds, Arthur Keates, Sheryl Keates, Athol Klieve, Min Li, Carli Lovell, John Lowry, Wayne Matthews, Vodka McClean, David Milton, Jan Nargar, David Niland, Gordana Pozvek, Peter Rothlisberg, Darren Smallwood, Michael Strong, Nicola Udy, Chris Walker, Dez Wells, Melissa Whitby and Brad Woodworth.

Arthur Keates was an observer on 924 occasions (46% of the sightings), Tony Cotter was the observer on 500 occasions (25%) and Dez Wells 162 sightings (8%); between them they reported almost 80% of the leg flag sightings for this period!

The following is a list of the individually marked green flags that have been seen on these species during this reporting period.

Bar-tailed Godwit –AAA, AAB, AAH, AAM, ABX, ACB, ACX, ACY, ACZ, ADA, ADB, ADH, ADM, ADN, ADP, ADW, ADX, ADZ, AEA, AEH, AEJ, AEK, AEN, AEU, AEV, AHA, AHE, AHL, AHM, AHN, AHP, AHS, AHT, AHW, AHY, AJB, AJD, AJL, AJM, AJW, AJY, AKA, AKD, AKJ, AKP, AKV, AKY, ALB, ALH, ALM, ALN, ALU, ALV, ALZ, AMA, AMH, AML, ANC, AND, ANE, ANK, ANM, ANX, APP, ARA, ARJ, ARN, AR, ARW, ASC, ASE, ASH, ASZ, ATD, AUN, AUS, AUU, AUV, AUW, AVA, AVC, AVD, AVK, AVM, AVN, AVP, AVS, AVU, AVW, AVX, AVY, AVZ, AXA, AXB, AXC, AXD, AXH, AXJ, AXL, AX, AXZ, AYA, AYB, AYC, AYK, AYN, AYS, AYU, AYV, AYX, AZB, AZC, AZD, AZM, AZS, AZT, AZV, AZZ, BAA, BAB, BAJ, BAS, BBD, BBE, BBJ, BBK, BBL, BBN, BBP, BBR, BBY, BCC, BCD, BCE, BCJ, BCL, BCM, BCN, BCP, BCR, BCS, BCT, BCV, BCX, BDA, BDJ, BDL, BDN, BDT, BDV, BDY, BEB, BEU, BEV, BEW, BEY, BHB, BHC, BHD, BHJ, BHK, BHN, BHP, BHR, BHS, BHT, BHU, BHV, BHW, BHY, BHZ, BJP, BKH, BKK, BKL, BKP, BKR, BKS, BKT, BLA, BNU, BPB, BPC, BPF, BPH, BPP, BPS, BPU, BPV, BRB, BRF, BRL, BRP, BTA, BTD, BTH, BTP, BUA, BUB, BUC, BUF, BUH, BUJ, BUS, BUT, BUU, BUV, BX, CAC, CAD, CAH, CAJ, CAK, CAN, CAS, CAT, CAU, CAV, CAZ, CBB, CBC, CBD, CBF, CBJ, CBK, CBN, CBS, CBT, CBV, CBX, CBY, CCA, CCC, CCF, CCK, CCL, CCT, CCV, CCX, CCY, CCZ, CJA, CJB, CJD, CJF, CJH, CJJ, CJL, CJN, CJP, CJS, CPM, CPT, CS, CU, CX, DBB, DBF, DBH, DBJ, DBK, DCA, DL, DN, EC, EL, EN, EY, HL, HP, HR, HU, JA, JB, JE, JH, JJ, JM, JX, KN, PA, PC, PD, PE, PJ, PM, PN, PP, PR, PU, RL, RM & quantity 30 unread.

Broad-billed Sandpiper – quantity 1 unread.

Curlew Sandpiper – AAM, AAP, AAY, ABP, ABZ, ACK, ACT, ACX, ACZ, AJD, AJK, AJL, AJR, AKK, AKL, ANU, APD, AUB, AVF, AXA, AYD, AYP, AYS, AZU, AZV, AZY, DE and quantity 2 unread.

Eastern Curlew – AAD & quantity 4 unread.

Great Knot – AAM, AAP, AAT, ADA, ADC, AED, AEL, AHU, AJS, ALH, ALM, ALU, AMJ, ATH, ATT, ATX, ATY, AUA, AVX, AYY, BAP, BAZ, BBE, BBL, BBT, BBX, BCE, BCT, BCZ, BEH, BEJ, BEN, BES, BET, BEU, BEX, BHA, BHR, BLA, BNS, BRD, BRP, CNS, NA & 10 unread.

Greater Sand Plover – CAC, CAD, CAF, CAY, CCB, CCC, CSB, CVB, CVF, CVH, CVJ & ED.

Grey Plover – JT.

Grey-Tailed Tattler – AAC, AAK, AAR, ABD, ABJ, ACD, ACE, ACH, ACJ, ACK, ACN, ACW, ACX, ACY, ACZ, ADH, ADJ, ADN, ADZ, AKC, AKJ, AKK, AKR, AKV, AKW, AMB, AMC, ANA, ANN, ANT, ANZ, APS, APU, APY, APZ, AR, ARD, ARH, ARJ, ARL, ARS, ARU, ARW, ARY, ASA, ASE, ASJ, ASL, AST, ASU, ASY, ASZ, ATA, ATC, ATD, ATE, ATH, ATJ, ATL, ATW, AUA, AUD, AUK, AUN, AUP, AUS, AUT, AUY, AUZ,

AVA, AVC, AVJ, AVN, AWU, AWV, AWW, AWZ, AXB, AXD, AXE, AXH, AXJ, AXP, AXR, AXX, AYA, AYB, AZL, AZP, AZU, AZW, AZX, AZY, AZZ, BAD, BAJ, BAL, BAM, BDB, BDJ, BDL, BDN, BHE, BHH, BPJ, BPL, BPX, BPY, BPZ, BSN, BSP, BSS, BST, BT, BXB, BXD, BXF, BXH, BXJ, BXL, BXN, BXS, CA, DAD, DX, EM, HK, HT, HY, JD, JL, JN, JY, JZ, KM, KV, KX, KZ, LM, LN, RD, RM, RU & quantity 20 unread.

Lesser Sand Plover – AEK, AEL, AEN, AEP, AER, AES, AET, AEU, AEW, AEX, AEY, AEZ, AJZ, ALR, ALU, ALZ, AMB, AMC, AMH, AML, ANP, AST, AUC, AUD, AUN, AUS, AUU, AUX, AUZ, AVC, AVN, AVP, AVS, AVT, AVV, AVX, AVY, AXB, AXC, AXF, AXL, AXN, AXP, AXT, AXU, AXV, AXX, AXY, AXZ, AYT, AYW, AYY, AYZ, AZD, AZT, BAA, BUB, BUD, BUF, BUH, BUL, CVD, HZ & quantity 10 unread.

Pacific Golden Plover – AVV, BHK, BHN, BSB, BSC, BSD, BSH, BSJ, BSK & quantity 2 unread.

Pied Oystercatcher – AAD, AAE, AAK, AAT, AAU, AAY, ABC, ABE, ABL, ABM, AML, C4, D3, EX & quantity 2 unread.

Pied Stilt – ABD, BED, BEJ, BZC, KC & quantity 2 unread.

Red-necked Stint – 2A, 2D, 2P, 3A, 3K, 3L, 3P, 3T, 3U, 3Z, 4F, 4H, 4J, 4L, 4P, 4T, 4U, 4Y, 5A, 5B, 5D, 5F, 5U, 5Z, 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D, 6H, 6P, 6U, 7F, 7H, 7J, 7L, 7P, 7V, 8A, 8B, 8J, 8N, 8S, 8V, 8Z, AY, B3, BN, D4, K3, K4, N2, N4, N5, NC, P6, SJ, SV, TD, U3, U6, UZ, VL, X2, X9, XT, Z2, Z6, Z9, ZP, ZT, ZZ & quantity 4 unread.

Ruddy Turnstone – ABY, AKW, AKX, APJ, ATA, ATB, ATC, ATD, ATF, ATH, ATK, ATN, ATP, ATT, ATU, ATV, ATY, ATZ, AUC, AUD, AUH, AXY, AYH, CSA, CSC, CSD, HE & quantity 3 unread.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – AEL, AEN, AEP, ALL, AXC, CAZ, CCF, CTB, CTM, CVC, CVK & quantity 6 unread.

Terek Sandpiper – HD & quantity 4 unread.

Whimbrel – ABT, BXN, BXS, BXU, BYA, BYC, BYH, BYL, BYP, BYT, CJV, DAC, DAF, DAH, DAM, DAN, DAT, DAY, DBY, DCB, DJD, DJH, DJN, DJP, FV, & quantity 5 unread.

## **GREEN leg flag sightings seen INTERSTATE**

None

## **GREEN leg flag sightings seen OVERSEAS**

### **In Japan**

#### **Grey-tailed Tattler**

C2 on flag - 17.5.2013 – Rokugo Estuary Tama River Tokyo – Mariko Sagawa

BAH on flag - 17.5.2013 – Mouth of Suzuka-Hasen River Kusu Mie – Hiroshi Abe

ABD on flag - 24.5.2013 – Inari Hokuto-shi Hokkaido – Yuuya Yamaki

### **In China**

None

## **ORANGE (Victoria) leg flag sightings seen in QLD.**

### **Bar-tailed Godwit**

CHH on flag – 15.12.2017 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

### **Curlew Sandpiper**

ELF unread – 19.12.2017 – Port of Brisbane – Arthur & Sheryl Keates

### **Great Knot**

Plain flag – on 7 occasions – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates et al

Plain flag – 6.1.2018 – Toorbul – Sarah Beavis

Plain flag – on 3 occasions – Manly/Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter

Plain flag – on 2 occasions – Kakadu Beach – Michael Strong

Plain flag – 20.12.2017 – Thorneside – Arthur Keates

## **OVERSEAS FLAGGED birds seen in QLD**

### **Black over white or white over black (Shanghai, China) leg flag sightings**

#### **Great Knot**

C34 on white flag – 21.12.2017 – Bushland Beach Townsville – John Lowry

A94 on white flag – 3.1.2018 – Bushland Beach Townsville – John Lowry

E17 on white flag – 3.1.2018 – Bushland Beach Townsville – John Lowry

T77 on white flag – 3.1.2018 – Bushland Beach Townsville – John Lowry

U54 on white flag – 3.2.2018 – Bushland Beach Townsville – John Lowry

C75 on white flag – 3.2.2018 – Bushland Beach Townsville – John Lowry

2 plain flags – 3.2.2018- Bushland Beach Townsville – John Lowry

J62 on white flag – 15 & 30.12.2017 & 25.1.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates  
 J62 on white flag – 20.12.2017 – Wellington Point – Graham Donaldson  
 J62 on white flag – 13.1.2018 – Acacia St Wellington Point – Nicola Udy  
 J62 on white flag – 14.1.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter  
 J62 on white flag – 27.1.2018 – Manly/Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter  
 U04 on white flag – 16.12.2017 – Cairns Esplanade – Jun Matsui

**Red Knot**

1 plain flags – 17.11.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Athol Klieve  
 1 plain flags – 2 & 3.12.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter  
 1 plain flags – 8 & 10.12.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates

**Grey-tailed Tattler**

1 plain flags – 21.1.2018 – Tinnanbar Great Sandy Strait – Dez Wells

**Green over Blue (Jiangsu, China) leg flag sightings****Lesser Sand Plover**

1 plain flags left tibia – 15.1.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates

**Black over Yellow (Kamchatka Russia) leg flag sightings****Great Knot**

EH on yellow flag – 3 & 28.1.2018 – Bushland Beach Townsville – John Lowry  
 ELF unread – 3.1.2018 – Bushland Beach Townsville – John Lowry

**White (New Zealand) leg flag sightings**

None

**Blue (Japanese) leg flag sightings – (use four colour combinations)****Grey-tailed Tattler**

plain flag – 22.11.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter  
 plain flag – 2 & 23.12.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter  
 plain flag - 30.12.2017 – Manly - Arthur Keates  
 plain flag – 7.1.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter  
 plain flag - 14.1.2018 – Manly/Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter  
 plain flag – 2, 15 & 29.1.2018 – Manly - Arthur Keates  
 plain flag - 19.1.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Gordana Pozvek & Paul Hinds  
 plain flag – 26.1.2018 – Lytton Roost – Tony Cotter  
 plain flag – 9.2.2018 – Lytton Roost – Gordana Pozvek  
 plain flag – 10 & 11.2.2018 – Lytton Roost – Tony Cotter  
 plain flag – 12.2.2018 – Manly - Arthur Keates

**Red-necked Stint**

Engraved flags unread – on R tibia & R tarsus – 3.1.2018 – Bushland Beach Townsville – John Lowry  
 C43 on blue flag on R tibia, plain blue flag on R tarsus – 3.2.2018 – Bushland Beach Townsville – John Lowry

**Blue over White (Japanese) leg flag sightings****Grey-tailed Tattler**

667 on blue flag – 19 & 26.11.2017 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter  
 667 on blue flag – 10, 15 & 29.1.2018 – Manly – Arthur Keates  
 667 on blue flag – 12.2.2018 – Manly – Arthur Keates  
 568 on blue flag – 20.12.2017 – Thorneside – Arthur Keates  
 568 on blue flag – 30.12.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates  
 568 on blue flag – 2, & 15.1.2018 – Manly – Arthur Keates  
 568 on blue flag – 27.1.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter  
 568 on blue flag – 12.2.2018 – Manly – Arthur Keates  
 569 on blue flag – 15.1.2018 – Manly – Arthur Keates  
 191 on blue flag – 22.12.2017 – Manly/Lota Esplanade – Arthur Keates  
 191 on blue flag – 30.12.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates  
 315 on blue flag – 30.12.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates  
 315 on blue flag – 2.1.2018 – Manly – Arthur Keates  
 315 on blue flag – 10.1.2018 – Manly – Arthur Keates & Melissa Whitby  
 315 on blue flag – 27.1.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter

Engraved flag unread – 26.11.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates, Melissa Whitby  
 Engraved flag unread – 23.12.2017 – Manly – Arthur Keates, Melissa Whitby  
 Engraved flag unread – 2, 25 & 29.1.2018 – Manly – Arthur Keates  
 Engraved flag unread – 28.1.2018 – Lytton Roost - Tony Cotter  
 Engraved flag unread – 3.2.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter  
 Engraved flag unread – 11.2.2018 – Manly/Lota Esplanade – Tony Cotter

#### Lesser Sand Plover

Engraved flag unread – 19.11.2017 – Port of Brisbane – Arthur & Sheryl Keates

#### Red-necked Stint

Engraved flag unread – 14.12.2017 – Qld Alumina Gladstone – Margaret Worthington  
 H06 on blue flag – 18.12.2017 – Yorkey's Knob North Qld – Tony Neilson

### **White over Blue Taiwan) leg flag sightings**

#### Red-necked Stint

080 on white flag – 25.1.2018 – Manly – Arthur Keates

#### Greater Sand Plover

Plain flags – 28.1.2018 – Bushland Beach – John Lowry

### **Pied Oystercatcher Yellow leg flag (2 digit) sightings**

**The following sightings of yellow flagged oystercatchers are not birds flagged in North West Western Australia, as per the flagging protocol. They are another project being run from Victoria and New South Wales. Birds flagged in Victoria will have a yellow flag on the right tibia and inscribed with two digits. New South Wales birds will have the yellow flag on the left tibia and inscribed with two digits.**

J4 on flag – 31.10.2017 – Bribie Island eastern beach – Natalie Sands

J4 on flag – 12.1.2018 – Bribie Island eastern beach – Natalie Sands

C4 on flag – 10.1.2018 – Manly Harbour – Arthur Keates & Melissa Whitby

C4 on flag – 21.1.2018 – Wynnum Esplanade – Tony Cotter

### **Caspian Tern Orange flag (Victoria)**

E1 on flag - 1.1.2018 – Kakadu Beach Bribie – Michael Strong

U8 on flag - 2.1.2018 – Kakadu Beach Bribie – Michael Strong

## Wader ID Day Reports

### **Manly Shorebird Roost Report 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

by Arthur & Sheryl Keates

The day after a line of storms passed through south-east Queensland, 20 people braved the predicted storms on the day of this outing. The high tides of recent days combined with the rain resulted in the water level being higher than usual, likely impacting on the fewer than usual number of birds at the roost.

Even with a 33 kph south-easterly wind, observers had reasonably good views of 16 species of migratory shorebird and 4 species of resident shorebird. A lone Black-tailed Godwit was observed among the large flock of Bar-tailed Godwit and a Terek Sandpiper was observed by some among the Grey-tailed Tattler. Only small numbers of Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers, Curlew Sandpiper and Red-necked Stint showed themselves. After the outing, we found that one of the sand plovers, identified in the field as a greater fitted with an engraved leg flag, is according to the banding database, a Lesser Sand Plover!

The single Far Eastern Curlew left the roost not long after our arrival on site as did a Pacific Golden Plover; our presence probably the cause of their departure. Apparent disturbance by wind surfers also resulted in the birds taking to flight on a couple of occasions but this enabled us to pick up at least 3 Red Knot as the birds settled back on the island. Two pairs of Red-capped Plover kept a watchful eye over their chicks.

Birds of several species fitted with a Queensland green leg flag were observed but no overseas or interstate flagged birds were noted.

The following species were seen at the roost site:

Little Pied Cormorant, Australian Pelican, Pied Oystercatcher, White-headed Stilt, Masked Lapwing, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-capped Plover, Greater Sand Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Far Eastern Curlew, Common Greenshank, Grey-tailed Tattler, Terek Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, Greater Crested Tern and Little Tern.

## Toorbul Wader ID Day Report 6<sup>th</sup> January 2018

With 5 king tides during the week prior to this outing, and the decision to meet early (09:30 onwards), to ensure we got to view any waders before the 2.51-metre-high for the day pushed the birds to other areas within the passage, may well have been overly cautious. When we arrived, we could almost have done a low tide count, given that the water was way out in the passage.

In total 16 attendees assembled at the picnic table to quite warm conditions (although a little humid), and only a very slight south-easterly breeze. Most people decided to have early morning tea before eventually moving down to the main roost as the birds arrived.

Without sounding like a record, yet again, the species diversity at the roost was very low with only 6 migratory species to identify. A lone Grey-tailed Tattler flew off before most people saw it and there were no Black-tailed Godwit or Red Knot to help make the viewing session more interesting and challenging. However, there was a bit of excitement with the arrival of a single Pacific Golden Plover. The bird did create quite a bit of interest for some of the attendees, and thankfully it stayed at the roost during the peak of the tide.

No overseas flagged waders were seen, however there was one Great Knot sporting a plain orange flag (flagged in Victoria), and many green flags seen on 4 species of waders (Pied Oystercatcher, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel and Great Knot), which were flagged in south-east Queensland. In the Whimbrel flock 1 (possibly 2), also sported a satellite transmitter, but it was too distant to read the engraved leg flag. There was 1 Caspian Tern with and engraved orange leg flag (flagged in Victoria), but it was not possible to read it. A count was conducted at the roost and added to the QWSG database.

Birds seen at and around the main Toorbul Roost and during the ID session (F/O – flying over, H – Heard):

134 Black Swan in the passage, 6 Australian White Ibis (F/O), 1 Royal Spoonbill (F/O), 1 Great Egret (F/O), 1 White-faced Heron (F/O), 1 Little Egret, 1 Australian Pelican, 1 Eastern Osprey (F/O), 1 Brahminy Kite (F/O), 2 White-bellied Sea Eagle (F/O), 22 Pied Oystercatcher, 4 Masked Lapwing, 1 Pacific Golden Plover, c1,000 Bar-tailed Godwit, c250 Whimbrel, 3 Far Eastern Curlew, 1 Grey-tailed Tattler, 63 Great Knot, 1 Silver Gull, 2 Gull-billed Tern, 6 Caspian Tern.

A couple of the above species were seen or heard while a few of us were having a late lunch, and after most of the group had left the outing.

Bishop's Marsh was full of water, which was possibly due to the king tides earlier in the week, and Sarah Beavis and Rob Kernot stopped and did a count of the marsh and the birds in the west paddock. The marsh count will be added to the QWSG database. Species list as follows:

12 Plumed Whistling Duck, 2 Maned Duck, 2 Pacific Black Duck, 2 Grey Teal, 4 Chestnut Teal, 9 Australian White Ibis, 11 Straw-necked Ibis, 8 Royal Spoonbill, 5 Eastern Cattle Egret, 1 Great Egret, 3 Intermediate Egret, 1 White-faced Heron, 1 Little Pied Cormorant, 28 White-headed Stilt, 36 Masked Lapwing, 2 Red-kneed Dotterel, 3 Black-fronted Dotterel, 6 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 15 Gull-billed Tern.

Linda Cross.

## Manly Shorebird Roost ID Day Report 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018

by Arthur & Sheryl Keates

As heat wave conditions were predicted for the day, we were fortunate this was an early morning field trip and had finished before the heat and humidity took hold. On arrival, the water on the bay was like a mill pond, a gentle breeze picking up as we finished.

Despite the orientation of the sun, observation conditions for most species were relatively good with 4 species of resident shorebird and 17 species of migratory shorebird recorded. However, Greater Sand Plover and the trans-Tasman visitor, Double-banded Plover, were not among the species observed. Highlights for many observers were a Grey Plover, an infrequent visitor to the site, and a Broad-billed Sandpiper, a species seen at various sites around Moreton Bay in the weeks leading up to the outing.

The Grey Plover, the only bird of its species that has been fitted with a green engraved leg flag in Moreton Bay, was banded on 16 January 2010 when aged 2 years and so is at least 10 years old.

Our presence did not seem to cause any disturbance to the roosting birds nor did it deter about 100 birds at the water inlet pipe, mostly Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpipers, feeding feverishly in preparation for their migration. A Black-tailed Godwit and Bar-tailed Godwit joined the feeding flock giving members good comparative views.

Birds of several species were showing traces of breeding plumage, notably several male Bar-tailed Godwit, while the Grey Plover and some Pacific Golden Plover and Great Knot showed signs of starting to moult.

No overseas flagged birds were observed but a Great Knot with a plain orange flag having been banded in Victoria was observed. Birds of several species fitted with a Queensland green engraved leg flag were observed in addition to the Grey Plover. A Pied Oystercatcher, fitted with green engraved leg flag "ABM", originally banded at this site on 4 May 2008, was observed with its cohorts.

A covey of Brown Quail diverted observers attention from the shorebirds for a short time as they made their way across the track only a short distance away. An Eastern Osprey passed overhead causing no disturbance to the following species seen at the roost:

Little Pied Cormorant, Great Egret, Australian Pelican, Pied Oystercatcher, White-headed Stilt, Masked Lapwing, Grey Plover, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-capped Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Far Eastern Curlew, Common Greenshank, Grey-tailed Tattler, Terek Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Red Knot, Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Silver Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern and Little Tern.

Lastly, because numbers are limited for this site, members are reminded that anyone who is registered but unable to attend an outing should, as a matter of courtesy, please advise the leaders so that others wishing to attend may take their place.



Checking out the waders at the Manly ID Day.



## Wader ID Days 2018

### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March at Manly Harbour 2018**

1.74 m high tide at 14:36 (2.36 p.m.) Meeting time 14:00 (2.00 p.m.)

This is your chance to access the wader roost at Manly Harbour. Meet at the end of Davenport Dr, south of the Royal Queensland Yacht Clubhouse, Manly.

QWSG has an access agreement for the wader roost. Under the conditions of the agreement, participants in this field trip will be required to sign a form acknowledging responsibility for their own health and safety, including:

- ✘ wearing protective clothing at all times (for example, hat, shoes, sunglasses) and using sunscreen
- ✘ drinking water to avoid dehydration
- ✘ using insect repellent if necessary
- ✘ telling a group leader about any health issues that may affect taking part in the field trip
- ✘ if feeling unwell, or concerned about someone else being unwell, immediately telling a group leader or another participant
- ✘ immediately telling a group leader or another participant about any injury suffered (including a slip, trip, fall and snake bite) or hazard that may cause injury to someone.

Participants must wear enclosed footwear, have drinking water and, because the site is exposed and the likelihood of a westerly wind, a jacket is advisable.

**Anyone who does not comply with these conditions will not be allowed to enter the site or asked to leave.**

The gate will be locked after we enter the site and late arrivals will not be able to enter.

**Participation in this field trip is strictly limited to those who have registered with the leaders. Please do not just turn up on the day without registering.**

Leaders: Arthur and Sheryl Keates

# Dog attack on Horse at Nudgee Beach

This article is from the Northside Chronicle 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018. It is not only our beloved waders that are under threat from unrestrained dogs. One also thinks it could be you or your child.

## Horses attacked at beach

**Dog savages two horses**

**KARA SONTNER**  
kara.sontner@news.com.au

AN Albany Creek horse rider has recounted the "terrifying" moment a large dog launched a vicious attack on her horses at Nudgee Beach.

Keesha Moignard and her daughter Lucie, 19, were heading to shore after a ride to Sandgate on February 10 when an unrestrained black dog savaged their horses Nipper and Peter Pan.

"I shouted to Lucie 'the dog, the dog', and before I could say anything else the dog lunged from about 10 foot away at (Nipper's) neck and was hanging off his neck wriggling," Ms Moignard said.

"Both of us were screaming, terrified. We could not stop the dog, it just attacked and attacked...tearing away at the horses."

"It bit my knee, the horse came in and pawed at the dog almost as if to save me."

"Then the dog, after being struck by my horse... came back and hit him and was hanging off his chest."

Ms Moignard released footage of the attack, caught by a bystander. It has attracted more than 1900 social media shares and 204,000 views. A veterinary report confirmed a number of puncture wounds and deep cuts on the horses were "consistent with a very aggressive dog attack".

Ms Moignard said while she wanted the dog destroyed and compensation for her vet bills, every other dog she passed on the beach was perfectly behaved.

"The beach is for everyone, it's not just for dogs or for people or for horses."

A Brisbane City Council spokeswoman said it was investigating an incident involving two horses and a dog at Nudgee Beach two weeks ago.

See the video at [courtesy@mail.com.au/quasnews/north](mailto:courtesy@mail.com.au/quasnews/north)




A dog attacks Keesha and Lucie Moignard's horses at Nudgee Beach and (inset) a wound on one of the horses.




A dog attacks Keesha and Lucie Moignard's horses at Nudgee Beach and (inset) a wound on one of the horses.

## QWSG CONTACTS

### QUEENSLAND WADER [www.waders.org.au](http://www.waders.org.au)

The Official Quarterly Publication of  
Queensland Wader Study Group

#### **MEMBERS of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE of the QWSG**

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<u>TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP</u>	Sheryl Keates	<a href="mailto:membership@waders.org.au">membership@waders.org.au</a>
<u>SECRETARY:</u>	Peter Rothlisberg	<a href="mailto:secretary@waders.org.au">secretary@waders.org.au</a>
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Robert Bush	Jon Coleman
Paul Finn	Andrew Geering
Sandra Harding	David Milton
Brad Woodworth	

<u>COUNT COORDINATOR:</u>	Linda Cross
<u>LEG FLAG COORDINATOR</u>	Phil Cross
<u>MERCHANDISE</u>	Position suspended.

BQ PRESIDENT                      Rae Clark              Email [president@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:president@birdsqueensland.org.au)

CORRESPONDENCE      All correspondence to:  
The QWSG Chairperson,  
54, Elliott Street,  
CLAYFIELD,  
QLD 4011

CHANGE OF ADDRESS Please notify the Treasurer as soon as possible of any change of address so that your Newsletter can be dispatched correctly.

SUBSCRIPTIONS              Annual subscription rates:  
Single: \$15:00  
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Forward application to:  
QWSG Treasurer,  
5 Stanmere St,  
CARINDALE,  
QLD 4152

Members are reminded their membership expires on the date shown on the newsletter address label, and the membership joining/renewal form is now on the back page. **Note:** that your subscription will fall due twelve (12) months after date of joining the QWSG or date of renewal, and only one further newsletter will be sent after expiry of your subscription.

Copy Deadline for the next issue of Queensland Wader is **May 18<sup>th</sup> 2017**

Contributions should be addressed to:  
David Edwards, the QWSG Editor, 54 Elliott Street, Clayfield, Qld 4011  
or E-mail to: [gouldian@ozemail.com.au](mailto:gouldian@ozemail.com.au)

Opinions expressed in Queensland Wader are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Queensland Waders Study Group, nor Birds Queensland.

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## Other Conservation Activities of Interest



QWSG is a special interest group of the Birds Queensland Inc. whose object is:  
" To promote the scientific study and conservation of birds by all means possible, with particular reference to the birds of Queensland".

Separate membership is required.

Contacts: President, Rae Clark  
Secretary, Robert Bush  
Treasurer, Judith Giles

[president@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:president@birdsqueensland.org.au)

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[treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au](mailto:treasurer@birdsqueensland.org.au)

Monthly Meetings Birds Queensland

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday each month except January, when there is no meeting.  
Royal Geographical Society Meeting Room, 237 Milton Road, Milton.  
Arrive after 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start.

## Dog Disturbance on Shorelines

When people see dogs chasing or disturbing shorebirds,  
Phone the BCC Call Centre 3403 8888 and request a RAPID RESPONSE TEAM be sent.  
Add the number to your mobile.

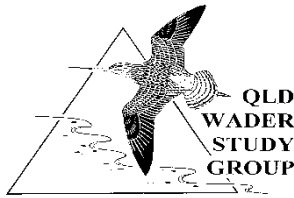
## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined recently:

Stephen BARKER, Emma BOTHWELL, Rebecca BRACKEN, Lucas BROOK,  
Graham CASTLES, Pat COMBEN, Alexandra CORCORAN, Sophie COWIE,  
Michael DALEY, Zack DAVIS, Wendy DEPTULA, Ross EASTON, Margaret EASTON,  
Rainer EBEL, Kerri FEENEY, Will FEENEY, Maggie GRUNDLER, Zannah GUBLER,  
Noah HUNT, David LIE, Matthew MARSH, Tim PEISKER, Karin RENCKEN,  
Nicole RICHARDSON, Thomas RYAN, Oscar THOMAS, Joe WELKEN

A reminder to members, please let the Treasurer know if you change your email address. If you do please make sure that it does allow delivery and not send downloads to spam.

Many thanks too to those who have included a donation with their renewal or membership fee. This is greatly appreciated as such donations make on-going work possible.



## Count Activities – 2017 - 2018

### QWSG High Tide – Monthly Count Program 2017 - 2018

Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2.39m at 09:35	Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2.29m at 08:22
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> May	2.16m at 06:55	Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> Jun	1.93m at 11:24
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> Jul	1.97m at 10:21 <b>National Winter Count</b>	Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug	1.97m at 09:17
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> Sep	2.03m at 13:30	Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2.21m at 12:12
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	2.37m at 11:07	Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2.44m at 10:09

**Normally we have a rest month (either June or July) depending on the tides, but this year there are suitable tides for both months. July will be the National Winter Count. If you can do a count in June as well, that would be much appreciated.**

### Port of Brisbane Count Dates 2017 - 2018

Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2.38m at 10:09 Meet 08:20	Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	2.31m at 09:00 Meet 07:10
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> May	2.19m at 07:41 Meet 06:50	Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> Jun	1.88m at 12:19 Meet 10:30
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Jul	1.97m at 11:13 Meet 09:25 Nat Winter Count	Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Aug	2.02m at 10:08 Meet 08:20
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Sep	1.96m at 14:24 Meet 12:35	Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2.12m at 12:52 Meet 11:00
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	2.30m at 11:43 Meet 09:55	Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2.41m at 10:45 Meet 08:55

**The Port of Brisbane is a work site and we are doing the survey for the Port and ourselves. Unfortunately we cannot accept people who turn up on the day for a bird watching day.**

**PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR RENEWAL IS DUE!**

### MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

**A reminder to members:** please check to see if your renewal is due and please let the Treasurer know if you change your contact details.

I / We wish to join / renew: (Single: \$15; Family: \$25; Student/Pensioner: \$10)

Title:..... First name: .....Surname: .....

Address:..... Membership: \$.....

..... Postcode:..... Donation: \$.....

Payment enclosed: \$.....

Do you require a receipt? Yes / No

Phone: (Home) ..... (Work) ..... (Mobile).....

Email ..... Fax.....

How did you hear about QWSG?.....

Are you a member of Birds Queensland? .....

What activities do you wish to participate in? (Please circle)

WADER COUNTS, FIELD TRIPS, SCIENTIFIC DATA COLLECTION, SURVEYS, CLERICAL,  
OTHER (specify :.....)

Would you like to receive your newsletter (colour version) by E-mail?.....

Signature ..... Date:.....

**Please email this form to:** [membership@waders.org.au](mailto:membership@waders.org.au)

Direct funds transfer to:

Qld Wader Study Group

BSB: 313 140 (Bank Australia)

Account number: 08305297

**or**

**Please post this form to:** QWSG Treasurer PO Box 3138, SOUTH BRISBANE, QLD 4101

Cheques to be made out to: Qld Wader Study Group